

REMARKS

By virtue of this Preliminary Amendment, it is seen that the claims rejected in the original application are now cancelled, leaving allowable claim 5 (rewritten as independent Claim 21) and claims dependent on Claim 21. It is also seen that the claims are amended so as to improve their readability and comprehension, without limiting the scope thereof.

In view of this amendment, it appears that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof would be sincerely appreciated.

If there are any remaining issues which can be expeditiously resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A material according to Claim 21, wherein the conductive filler (B) comprises a metal powder, carbon black, graphite or a metal oxide.

Claims 11-14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A material according to Claim 10, comprising (D) wherein (D) comprises at least one of silica, polymethyl methacrylate and a UV inhibitor.

Claims 16-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A composite material comprising, by weight, the total being 100%:

A) 40 to 90% of a polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) homopolymer or copolymer crystallized essentially in the β form,

B) 10 to 60% of a conductive filler,

C) not more than 40% of (A), a being a (PVDF) homopolymer which is neither in the β form nor a vinylidene fluoride-hexafluoropropylene copolymer (VF2-HFP) comprising at least 85 mol % of VF2,

D) 0 to 40% of a filler other than C,

such that the crystals in the β form ~~or a VF2-HFP copolymer comprising at least 85 mol% of VF2~~ are nucleated on the surface of the conductive filler.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A material according to Claim 21, in which (A) is chosen from copolymers of VF2 and trifluoroethylene VF3 (VF3) having at least 60 mol % of VF2.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A material according to Claim 21, in which (A) ~~is chosen from~~ comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of copolymers of VF2, of tetrafluoroethylene TFE (TFE) and of HFP having at least 15 mol% of TFE units.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A material according to Claim 21, in which (A) ~~is chosen from~~ comprises at least one VF2-TFE-HFP copolymers copolymer with ~~the~~ a respective molar composition 60 to 80/ 15 to 20/ 0 to 25.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A material according to Claim 21, wherein the conductive filler (B) comprises a metal powder, carbon black, graphite or a metal oxide.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A material according to Claim 21, wherein the conductive filler (B) comprises graphite.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A material according to Claim 21, comprising (D) wherein (D) comprises at least one of silica, polymethyl methacrylate and a UV inhibitor.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): An article according to Claim 21, wherein the insulating surface is a ceramic.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A paint comprising a solvent dispersion of the composite material according to Claim 21.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A material according to claim 21, in which (C) comprises said PVDF homopolymer which is not in the ~~data~~ beta form.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A material according to claim 21, in which (C) comprises a said VF2-HFP copolymer comprising at least 85 mol % of VF2.